

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A patch bag comprising a heat-shrinkable patch adhered to a heat-shrinkable bag, the heat-shrinkable patch comprising a first heat-shrinkable film and the heat-shrinkable bag comprising a second heat-shrinkable film, the first heat-shrinkable film comprising a blend of:

- A) ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³ in an amount of at least about 5 percent, based on a total weight of the blend; and
- B) heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³, present in an amount of at least about 21 percent, based on the total weight of the blend; and

wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³ and heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³ together make up at least 70 percent of the total weight of the first film, and wherein the patch is adhered to the bag with an adhesive or corona treatment.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³ is present in the blend in an amount of from about 5 to 70 percent, based on the weight of the blend, and the heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³ is present in the blend in an amount of from about 30 to 95 percent, based on the weight of the blend.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein both the first and second heat-shrinkable films each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 35 percent, and the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³ comprises linear low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 20 to 50 percent, based on total blend weight, and the heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³ comprises very low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 50 to 80 weight percent, based on total blend weight, with the blend optionally comprising a homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.88 to 0.915 g/cm³ in an amount of from about 0 to 30 percent, based on total blend weight, with the blend being present in an amount of at least 70 weight percent, based on layer weight, in a layer having a thickness of at least about 0.6 mil.

Claim 5 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the blend comprises very low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 60 to 95 weight percent, based on total blend weight, and linear low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 5 to 40 percent.

Claim 6 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the blend comprises at least 75 percent of the patch, based on total patch weight.

Claim 7 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch bag exhibits a Standard Rib Drop Test failure rate of less than 35 percent.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch is free of homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer.

Claim 9 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the blend comprises homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer in an amount of from about 1 to about 20 percent, based on blend weight.

Claim 10 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the blend further comprises up to 15 weight percent of at least one member selected from the group consisting of slip, filler, pigment, dye, radiation stabilizer, antioxidant, fluorescence additive, antistatic agent, elastomer, and viscosity-modifying agent.

Claim 11 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch comprises very low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 70 to 80 weight percent, and linear low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 20 to 30 weight percent.

Claim 12 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch is a monolayer film.

Claim 13 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the bag comprises a first biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprising an outside abuse layer, an inner O₂-barrier

layer, and an inside-sealant layer, and the patch comprises a second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film.

Claim 14 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch is adhered to an outside surface of the bag.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has an indexed energy to break of at least 0.6 Joules per mil.

Claim 16 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein the patch is a multilayer film.

Claim 17 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 16, wherein the patch film comprises outer layers each of which comprises the blend, and an inner layer comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymer, homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated acid copolymer, and ionomer.

Claim 18 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 16, wherein the multilayer film comprises an inner layer welded to itself and outer layers each comprising the blend.

Claim 19 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 18, wherein the inner layer welded to itself comprises ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer in an amount of at least 50 percent, based on the weight of the inner layer.

Claim 20 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 19, wherein the ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer comprises vinyl acetate in an amount of from about 3 to 50 weight percent, based on the weight of the ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer.

Claim 21 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 16, wherein the multilayer film comprises at least two layers which comprise the blend.

Claim 22 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 16, wherein the multilayer film has a symmetrical cross-section.

Claim 23 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 22, wherein the multilayer film comprises an inner layer comprising ethylene/vinyl acetate in an amount of from about 50 to 100 percent, and the film further comprises two outer layers, each of which contains the blend.

Claim 24 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 23, wherein the blend comprises very low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 70 to 80 percent and linear low density polyethylene in an amount of from about 20 to 30 percent.

Claim 25 (original): The patch bag according to Claim 24, wherein the patch further comprises an intermediate layer which also comprises the blend.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A patch bag comprising a heat-shrinkable patch adhered to a heat-shrinkable bag, the heat-shrinkable patch comprising a first heat-shrinkable film and the heat-shrinkable bag comprising a second heat-shrinkable film, the first heat-shrinkable film comprising a blend of:

A) ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³, present in an amount of at least about 5 percent based on a total weight of the blend; and

B) heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³ and a composition distribution breadth index less than 55 percent, present in an amount of at least about 21 percent, based on the total weight of the blend; and

wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density greater than about 0.915 g/cm³ and heterogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of less than about 0.915 g/cm³ together make up at least 70 percent of the total weight of the first film, and wherein the patch is adhered to the bag with an adhesive or corona treatment.

Claim 27 (new): The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a total free shrink at 85°C of at least 35 percent.

Claim 28 (new): The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a total free shrink at 85°C of at least 40 percent.

Claim 29 (new): The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a total free shrink at 85°C of at least 50 percent.

Claim 30 (new): The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first heat-shrinkable film has a total free shrink at 85°C of at least 60 percent.